



**First Committee of the 80th UN General Assembly  
Cluster VII – Disarmament machinery**

**Statement by H.E. Leonardo Bencini  
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament  
New York, 28 October 2025**

Vice Chair,

Italy is deeply concerned at the continued erosion of the international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. This trend must be stopped and reversed. There is a need for a renewed commitment to uphold the existing legal framework and prepare for the new challenges ahead.

The UN80 Initiative offers member States an opportunity to look into the disarmament machinery, a relatively small but politically sensitive part of the broader UN system. Beyond immediate gains achievable through efficiency and cost-saving measures, we have to take a longer-term view and consider possible reforms. This debate is not new, in fact we discuss the disarmament machinery every year in this Committee and had intensive talks in Geneva in 2023 and 2024 in the run-up to the Pact for the Future.

As a staunch supporter of the multilateral system, Italy stands ready to discuss the idea of convening an SSOD-IV, at the appropriate time and with modalities to be defined. While it is perhaps at the moment unrealistic to embark on a wide restructuring of the disarmament machinery, we believe that we should at least begin to discuss the feasibility of certain proposals.

Chair,

During Italy's rotating presidency of the Conference on Disarmament earlier this year five subsidiary bodies were established to deal with the main topics on the CD's agenda. It was the first time that such a decision was made in January since 1996, and the sixth time it was taken at all during the same period. We view this as a positive development and believe this could be a template for future sessions in a spirit of continuity. While we regret that the subsidiary bodies were unable to agree on a final report, our assessment of this year's session is not entirely negative. Given the current international context, what we did this year was perhaps as far as we could go. The debate was well structured and thorough and could form the basis for renewed discussions next year.

We share the frustration of other delegations at the CD not fulfilling its negotiating mandate for many years. We believe, however, that the CD, also by virtue of its composition, remains an irreplaceable forum to discuss sensitive security issues, exchange views and seek common ground. We hope that, by building on what we did this year, we can lay the groundwork for negotiations on certain specific questions to start as soon as external conditions allow. For Italy, a priority remains the beginning of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.

Thank you, Vice Chair.